

Appendix B:
Gap Analysis Update
Summary and Maps

GAPS IN SEATTLE'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK – 2006 REPORT UPDATE

3/16/06

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the Open Space Gap Report update is to highlight the progress made in filling gaps in Seattle's open space network since 2001, and better understand which areas of the city are still deficient in usable open space. The original 2001 report made use of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology for the first time as a means of better illustrating the open space goals in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000, thus helping to indicate where future open space investments should be made. Thanks to Seattle voters, the 2000 Pro Parks Levy has been the main funding source for new park and open space development. The following report update once again uses GIS maps to track Pro Parks and other acquisitions and identifies where remaining gaps in Seattle's open space network are located.

REVIEW OF SEATTLE'S OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS, GOALS AND CRITERIA

Open Space Definitions

The following definitions are taken from Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000 and the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan.

Usable Open Space

Definition: Relatively level and open, easily accessible, primarily green open space available for drop-in use (can be part of larger citywide park space). The City's Comprehensive Plan calls usable open space in urban villages Urban Village Open Space. Urban Village Open Space is defined as "Publicly owned or dedicated open space that is easily accessible and intended to serve the immediate urban village. This encompasses various types of open space for passive enjoyment as well as activity and includes green areas and hard-surfaced urban plazas, street parks, and pocket parks. Dedicated open spaces should be at least 10,000 square feet in size."

Greenspaces (Greenbelts and Natural Areas)

Definition: Areas designated for preservation because of their natural or ecological qualities and their potential to contribute to an interconnected open space system.

Open Space Goals and Criteria

Excerpted below are open space goals and criteria from the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan and Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000.

Usable Open Space in Primarily Single Family Residential Areas (Seattle's Parks & Recreation Plan 2000)

USABLE OPEN SPACE	1/4 to 1/2 acre within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of every resident Single Family Usable Open Space Goal: 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile	Areas outside Urban Villages
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Urban Village Open Space Goals (Seattle Comprehensive Plan)

	URBAN CENTER VILLAGES	HUB URBAN VILLAGES	RESIDENTIAL URBAN VILLAGES
URBAN VILLAGE OPEN SPACE POPULATION BASED GOALS	One acre of Village Open Space per 1,000 households. For the downtown core one acre of Village Open Space per 10,000 jobs.	One acre of Village Open Space per 1,000 households.	Same as for Hub Urban Villages.
URBAN VILLAGE OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION GOALS	All locations in the village within approximately 1/8 mile of Village Open Space.	Same as for Urban Center Villages.	For moderate and high density areas: All locations within 1/8 mile of Village Open Space that is between 1/4- and 1-acre in size, or within 1/4 mile of Village Open Space that is greater than 1 acre. For low density areas: All locations within 1/4 mile of any qualifying Village Open Space.
QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR URBAN VILLAGE OPEN SPACE	Dedicated open spaces of at least 10,000 square feet in size, publicly accessible, and usable for recreation and social activities.	Same as for Urban Center Villages.	Same as for Urban Center and Hub Villages.
	At least one usable open space of at least one acre in size (Village Commons) with growth target of more than 2,500 households.	At least one usable open space of at least one acre in size (Village Commons).	At least one usable open space of at least one acre in size (Village Commons) where overall residential density is 10 households per gross acre or more.

OPEN SPACE GAP ASSESSMENT

The intent of this assessment is to present maps that graphically measure how the City's goals and criteria for Usable Open Space are or are not met. In order to accomplish this task, multiple maps showing the application of different types of Usable Open Space were developed. This section explains the methodology utilized in producing these maps before proceeding to a discussion of gaps in Seattle's open space network.

METHODOLOGY

In the maps demonstrating the distribution of usable open space (also urban village open space, which is basically usable open space in urban villages and includes urban village-specific criteria as described in the table of Urban Village Open Space Goals), parks that meet the various criteria for usable open space are surrounded by buffers that are equivalent to the distances proscribed within the different usable open space goals. Areas not covered by these buffers are outside of the service area of that particular type of usable open space and are thus "gaps" in park service.

OPEN SPACE SECTOR SUMMARIES

The following discussion addresses open space investments since 2001 and highlights the remaining gaps in usable open space in urban villages and single family areas in each sector of the city. Open space maps of each sector are available in Appendix B.

- **Northeast Sector**

Open Space Summary: Northeast Seattle is home to large park and recreation sites such as Magnuson Park, Jackson Park Golf Course, Ravenna Park, multiple neighborhood parks and ballfields and significant portions of the Burke-Gilman Trail. Since 2001, Seattle Parks has acquired sites for two new usable open spaces totaling 3.87 acres, specifically Northgate Park and the Maple Leaf Community Garden. A small pocket park in Pinehurst, an addition to Lake City's Albert Davis Park and various natural area site acquisitions also contribute to increased open space and recreation opportunities.

Remaining Gaps:

Gaps in Urban Village Usable Open Space – 10,000 square feet within 1/8 to 1/4 mile : Despite the City's three park acquisitions and park expansion, three of the Northeast Sector's five urban villages are mostly deficient in usable open space. A positive note is that almost the entire Roosevelt Residential Urban Village and approximately half of the Lake City Hub Urban Village are within the City's proscribed distances of usable open space. However, despite the addition of 3.87 acres of usable open space and three new park spaces, the majority of the Northgate Urban Center is still deficient. While the Ravenna and University urban center villages have significant deficiencies, it should be noted that the University of Washington campus, which is not counted as usable open space, provides some park amenities for both villages' large student populations.

Gaps in Single Family Usable Open Space – 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile of households in single family areas: While most of the northeast sector's single family areas are served by usable open space, there are gaps east of Jackson Park Golf Course, north of Matthew's Beach parallel to the Burke Gilman Trail and Lake Washington, in

Wedgwood northeast of Dahl Playfield and adjacent to Lake Washington in the Windermere neighborhood. It should be noted that essentially all of these are large lot single family zoned residential areas.

Planned and Funded Projects:

The Pro Parks Levy has funding for a park acquisition in the University District and park development at the old University Heights School.

- ***Northwest Sector***

Open Space Summary: Carkeek Park, Golden Gardens, the Ballard Locks, Green Lake, Woodland Park, Gas Works Park and the Woodland Park Zoo are major open space and recreation sites in Northwest Seattle. Smaller parks, ballfields and the Pro Parks funded extension of the Burke Gilman Trail are additional open space amenities. Other park enhancements since 2001, include five park acquisitions including the Bitter Lake Reservoir Park, Greenwood Park, Ballard Commons Park, Linden Orchard Park and Fremont Peak Park which altogether add 7.66 acres of usable open space to the Northwest sector.

Remaining Gaps:

Gaps in Urban Village Usable Open Space – 10,000 square feet within 1/8 to 1/4 mile : Of the Northwest Sector's eight urban villages, the Crown Hill Residential urban village is completely served by usable open space and the majority of the Green Lake and Wallingford residential urban villages are within a quarter of a mile of usable open space. Because of the new Greenwood Park, almost half of the Greenwood-Phinney Ridge Residential Urban Village, the Northwest Sector's most densely populated urban village, is now within one quarter from a mile of usable open space. While the Bitter Lake Reservoir park development will add significant usable open space to the Bitter Lake Hub Urban Village, the southern portion of the village is still deficient. The Ballard Hub Urban Village has similarly benefited from the acquisition of the 1.37 acre Ballard Commons Park and while the .11 acre park acquisition in northeast Ballard will not be officially counted as usable open space it will add an open space amenity in the largely deficient eastern section of the village. Despite the development of the new Ernst Park near downtown Fremont, most of the Fremont Residential Urban Village is still deficient in usable open space.

Gaps in Single Family Usable Open Space – 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile of households in single family areas: Large lot single family areas in the northwest corner of the sector south of the Highlands near the Llandover Woods Natural area and in Broadview southwest of the Bitter Lake Urban Village remain deficient in usable open space. More importantly, denser single family residential areas in northeast Ballard are still deficient. While not counted as usable open space, the new .21 acre Sixth Avenue Pocket Park does provide a new open space amenity to residents of northeast Ballard.

Planned and Funded Projects:

Seattle Parks is currently looking at acquiring further space near the Bitter Lake Hub Urban Village and has some funding for an additional acquisition in Ballard.

- **West Sector**

Open Space Summary:

Discovery Park, the Seattle Center, Myrtle Edwards Park, Waterfront Park, Occidental Square and the Seattle Aquarium are major open space and recreation attractions in Seattle's West Sector. While ballfields primarily serve those outside of the downtown urban center villages, there are neighborhood and pocket parks throughout the West Sector. Since 2001, Seattle Parks has acquired 18.17 acres of usable open space, 8.47 acres of which add significant new outdoor recreation space to the Eastlake Residential Urban Village. New development at South Lake Union Park also contributes to park space in the sector.

Remaining Gaps:

Gaps in Urban Village Usable Open Space – 10,000 square feet within 1/8 to 1/4 mile:

Because of existing park land and Pro Parks acquisition projects, four of the West Sector's nine densely populated urban villages, specifically those located in Upper Queen Anne, South Lake Union, Uptown Queen Anne and Eastlake, are almost completely served by usable open space. Of these four areas, the Upper Queen Anne Residential Urban Village, the Uptown Queen Anne Urban Center Village and the South Lake Union Urban Center Village are largely served because of their proximity to existing open space. Pro Parks and other funding have led to the acquisition of additional usable open space for the Uptown Urban Center Village at the new Queen Anne Avenue and Roy park site and Ward Springs Park, and the development of I-5 Colonnade Park in Eastlake. Most of the residentially zoned area of the Pioneer Square Urban Center Village and the majority of the Chinatown-International District Urban Center Village are also within an eighth of a mile of usable open space. However, Belltown, the most densely populated urban village in the city, and the Denny Triangle and Commercial Core urban center villages, continue to have significant deficiencies in usable open space.

Gaps in Single Family Usable Open Space – 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile of households in single family areas: The West Sector's single family neighborhoods are fully served by usable open space.

Planned and Funded Projects:

Parks has contributed to the development of the 8.5 acre Olympic Sculpture Park which will provide usable open space to the Uptown and Belltown urban center villages. There is also Pro Parks funding for acquisitions in the Denny Triangle and Chinatown/International District urban center villages. Additionally, Seattle Parks is continuing work toward increasing usable park land at Discovery Park.

- **Southwest Sector**

Open Space Summary:

Alki Beach Park, Camp Long, the West Seattle Stadium and Golf Course, Westcrest Park and Lincoln Park provide significant open space and recreation to the Southwest Sector. Ballfields and smaller neighborhood parks are located throughout the area. Since 2001, Seattle Parks has made purchases that will add two acres of usable open space to

Southwest including Oxbow Park, Dakota Place Park, Nantes Park and the Ercolini site west of the West Seattle Junction. Parks has also acquired twenty acres of natural area and greenspace in the area and provided funding to improve the Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail.

Remaining Gaps:

Gaps in Urban Village Usable Open Space – 10,000 square feet within 1/8 to 1/4 mile:

While the Admiral and South Park residential urban villages are almost completely served by usable open space, the Southwest Sector's remaining three urban villages, specifically, the West Seattle Junction, Morgan Junction and Westwood-Highland Park, have significant deficiencies. While the development of Nantes Park, and to a lesser extent the Ercolini and Junction Plaza sites, will provide some usable open space to the western neighborhoods of the West Seattle Junction Hub Urban Village, residents within the interior portions of the village are still more than one eighth of a mile from usable open space.

Gaps in Single Family Usable Open Space – 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile of households in single family areas: Except for a significant gap in usable open space for the large lot single family area in the southwest corner of the sector, most West Seattle single family neighborhoods are within a half a mile of usable open space.

Planned and Funded Projects:

The Ercolini property will provide .52 acres of usable open space to neighbors to the west of the West Seattle Junction urban village. There is also funding for an acquisition to help provide more usable open space in the Morgan Junction Residential Urban Village.

- ***East Sector***

Open Space Summary:

Significant open space and recreation sites in the East Sector include the Washington Park Arboretum, Volunteer Park, Cal Anderson Park and those parks adjacent to Lake Washington and the Lake Washington Boulevard. Playfields, neighborhood and mini-parks are also located within various East Sector communities. Since 2001, Seattle Parks has developed 4.79 acres of usable open space in the East Sector, including the new Homer Harris, Horiuchi and Cal Anderson parks.

Remaining Gaps:

Gaps in Urban Village Usable Open Space – 10,000 square feet within 1/8 to 1/4 mile:

There are six urban villages in the East Sector, with the Capitol Hill, Pike/Pine and First Hill urban center villages ranking within the top five of the most densely populated urban villages in the city. The Capitol Hill Urban Center Village has benefited greatly from the development of Cal Anderson Park, which when counted with existing usable open space, helps to provide usable open space to approximately half of the urban center village. Additionally, Seattle Parks has funding for two more acquisitions in Capitol Hill. Around half of the Pike/Pine and First Hill urban center villages are located adjacent to usable open space, including the newly renovated Plymouth Pillars Park in Pike/Pine. Seattle Parks has funding for an additional park acquisition in First Hill. Because of the

creation of Horiuchi Park, residents near the southern boundary of the 12th Avenue Urban Center Village are close to usable open space and a future acquisition is planned to help close the significant open space gap that currently exists in over half of the 12th Avenue village.

Gaps in Single Family Usable Open Space – 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile of households in single family areas: Single family neighborhoods in the East Sector are fully served by usable open space.

Planned and Funded Projects:

Funding exists for the acquisition and development of two parks in Capitol Hill and parks in both the First Hill and 12th Avenue urban center villages.

- **Southeast Sector**

Open Space Summary:

Jefferson Park and the Jefferson Park Golf Course, Genessee Park, Seward Park, Kubota Gardens and the Amy Yee Tennis Center provide considerable open space and recreation amenities to the Southeast Sector. There are also smaller scale neighborhood parks and playfields throughout the area. With Pro Parks and private funding, three parks have been developed since 2001 that provide 3.92 acres of new usable open space in the sector. The new Mount Baker Ridge Viewpoint will contribute another .11 of park space to the area.

Gaps in Urban Village Usable Open Space – 10,000 square feet within 1/8 to 1/4 mile:

With the exception of the North Rainier Hub Urban Village, most of the Southeast Sector's five urban villages are within close proximity to usable open space. While the development of York Park helps to contribute usable open space to the deficient areas in the southwest corner of the North Rainier Hub Urban Village, around half of the village is still outside the eighth of a mile usable open space range. Although over half of the Columbia City Residential Urban Village is within a quarter of a mile from usable open space, the western portion of the village adjacent to Cheasty Boulevard is outside of that range. The majority of the North Beacon Hill, MLK @ Holly and Rainier Beach residential urban villages are served by usable open space.

Gaps in Single Family Usable Open Space – 1/2 acre within 1/2 mile of households in single family areas: Except for the neighborhoods in the southwest portion of the sector around Beacon Avenue South, single family areas in Southeast are served by usable open space.

Planned and Funded Projects:

Two projects will add significant park and recreation space to the Southeast Sector. The Jefferson Park Reservoir lidding which will expand the size Jefferson Park and the Chief Sealth Trail will provide a 3.6 mile pedestrian and bicycle trail stretching from Beacon Hill to the Rainier Valley.

SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE DEFICIENCIES

Urban Villages

While the Pro Parks Levy and other private and public funding efforts have contributed significant acreage to Seattle's open space network since 2001, gaps in usable open space still exist. Though urban villages still have the most consistent deficiencies in usable open space, since 2001, large park development projects have significantly shifted the percentage of usable open space available to residents in the Bitter Lake, Ballard, Greenwood-Phinney, Capitol Hill and Pike/Pine urban villages. Further funded acquisition projects targeting the Ballard, Capitol Hill, 12th Ave, First Hill, University District, Denny Triangle, West Seattle and Morgan Junction villages will also provide valuable open space. However, after the development of all currently planned and funded usable open space projects, more than half of the land area of the following urban villages will still not be served by usable open space; Northgate, Bitter Lake, Fremont, Denny Triangle, West Seattle Junction and North Rainier urban villages.

Single Family Areas

Although the majority of single family areas in the city are served by usable open space, the area south of The Highlands in the northwest corner of the city, neighborhoods south of the Bitter Lake urban village, parts of northeast Ballard, areas in the Jackson Park, Wedgwood and Matthew's Beach neighborhoods, and areas at the very southwest and southeast points of the city are deficient in usable open space.

HOW THE CITY IS RESPONDING TO REMAINING GAPS IN SEATTLE' OPEN SPACE NETWORK

After the last of the Pro Parks Levy park acquisition funding is spent, Seattle Parks will continue to work with City, County and other partners to increase park lands in neighborhoods that are deficient in usable open space. Additionally, Seattle Parks will soon be updating the Seattle Parks Plan which will include the further examination of demographic characteristics of urban villages and single family areas while working with local communities to better understand the open space needs of Seattle's neighborhoods.